

# Wildcat online

VOL 2 ISSUE 2 1999 81ST REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

TF brings "New Hope" to hurricane ravaged country

## 81st RSC begins operation in El Salvador

By Maj. Doug Melton  
81st RSC Public Affairs Office

**A**rmy Reservists from the 81st RSC recently began the first of many short journeys from Alabama to El Salvador to help that small nation begin their long and difficult road to recovery from Hurricane Mitch.

Approximately 129 soldiers boarded a chartered DC-10 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama, for the first two-week rotation that will bring much needed assistance to this Central American country that was devastated by the lethal hurricane last October. Nine additional rotations of soldiers will follow with the last rotation departing on July 30 and returning on August 15 to conclude the six-month humanitarian mission.

The exercise, dubbed "Operation New Horizons," is a long-term exercise program, previously existing, which was expanded due to Hurricane Mitch and the resulting damage. Task Force "New Hope" under the



USAR photo by Staff Sgt. Scotty Johnson

**Spc. Calvin Tolbert passes out box lunches and bottled water to the deploying soldiers.**

construction of four low-water crossings; repair of a bridge abutment; and drilling of two wells to provide potable water to the local community.

In addition to the engineer projects, five rotational Medical Readiness Exercises will be conducted, providing much needed medical care and assistance to the local community, as well as medical support for the deployed Army Reservists and their Salvadoran counterparts.

More than 1500 soldiers from the 81st RSC will take part in Task Force New Hope alongside many more from assignments outside the RSC. A duration staff of approximately 45 soldiers will remain in El Salvador for the entire six-month period, ensuring the transition between rotations goes smoothly and that assigned projects continue without interruption.

The soldiers bound for El Salvador, as volunteers, come from throughout the eight-state RSC area, including Reservists from outside the command. Their mission will not only restore hope to this small country by rebuilding some of the infrastructure laid waste by the hurricane, but will also allow them to perform their MOS skills in a real-world situation.

"Our job is to build bridges and roads to make life easier for the people over



USAR photo by Staff Sgt. Scotty Johnson

**Pfc. Charles Hopcraft, 345th Combat Support Hospital, Gainesville, Fla., is checked off the passenger manifest before boarding the aircraft for El Salvador.**

command of Col. Robert Williamson and the 926th Engineer Group from Montgomery, which he also commands, will have multiple missions while in country. These missions include: construction of four 3-room school/clinics; restoration of a river channel near the town of Chilanguera;

*Continued on page 9*



# GENERAL COMMENTS

*Brig. Gen. Michael Mayo, Commander 81st RSC*

I am apprehensive about returning to the 81st RSC. Apprehensive because of the great strides made by Maj. Gen. Darden to make the 81st the most ready Army Reserve organization in the nation. It is hard to replace someone who has done so much. I cannot replace him, I can only ensure our readiness level is maintained and the 81st soldiers are supported to the best of my ability. While we will miss Gen. Darden, we need only remember that he is just a short distance away as the Commander, 87th Division (Exercise).

Thank you, General Darden. Your direction and mentoring will serve us for many years to come.

I am also excited and honored to return to the 81st Regional Support Command. It is not only the largest Regional Support Command in the nation, but also the most active in terms of deployments and training activities.

My emphasis during the next four years can be summed up in three words – **READINESS, SOLDIERS, FAMILIES**. READINESS forms the basis for the existence of the U.S. Army Reserve. That basis is measured by Command Success Indicators. As General Dennis Reimer, Chief of Staff of the Army said, “SOLDIERS are our credentials.” By watching how soldiers perform, we can determine how effective leaders motivate and lead. FAMILIES are vital links for the success of the Readiness and Soldiers. Without family support, soldiers are distracted during times when they need to be focused on their mission.

I need your help (leaders, soldiers and families) to continue the progress made by you, the members of the 81st Regional Support Command, in readiness support to soldiers and families.

## CSM MEMOS

As we begin the busy months of annual training throughout the 81st Regional Support Command, I am reminded of the events and activities that the great soldiers of this command will become engaged in. They will be extremely busy taking care of training, whether it be deployed in support of OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR or engaged in our newest exercise, NEW HORIZONS 99. Our soldiers will perform at a highly professional level.

Recently, 81st RSC soldiers began deploying to El Salvador for their annual training in support of NEW HORIZONS. The engineer mission is to restore the infrastructure of that country devastated by Hurricane Mitch. Our medical soldiers are also providing medical care to the El Salvador citizens. These are examples of our Army operating at its best.

In addition to the exercises and operations we are supporting throughout the world, most of our major subordinate commands are participating in significant events right here in CONUS. Some that come to mind are the driving rodeos being conducted in preparation to compete in the 81st RSC Drivers Rodeo in Biloxi, Miss., in August. Not only will the drivers be showcasing their talents, they will be competing at the same high professional level as the soldiers in El Salvador and Bosnia.

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## CHAT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

As I write this article, I am experiencing the impact of the Army’s way of life. Change, yes change. The person that acted as my right arm, left arm, and many other things these last three years is leaving. Chaplain John Armitstead is leaving our office to take the senior position at the Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky. No one can ever know what a valuable asset Chaplain Armitstead has been to me and to the entire 81st Regional Support Command (RSC). He has indeed been without equal in the job he was asked to do.

Chaplain Armitstead will be leaving in early June. I know that you will want to call or write him and thank him for the truly outstanding job that he has done for all of us. Chaplain Gerald Nelson will be coming in mid-July to replace Chaplain Armitstead. Be praying for both of these men as they make these transitions in their lives. Pray for me during this transitional period as well, that I might continue to give spiritual leadership to this great command.

There will be a short time that our office will be understaffed during this transitional period. Pray for Sgt. 1st Class Sherri Loeffler as she works double duty. We will be working very hard to ensure that you will not suffer during the interim.

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# Mayo assumes command of 81st RSC

By Elizabeth Eggleton  
Public Affairs Specialist  
81st RSC

**T**hey say you can't go home again, but in the case of one former 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) officer, it's just not true. Not only did he come home, but he returned to be the boss.

Brig. Gen. Michael R. Mayo, who served as deputy commander of the 121st U.S. Army Reserve Command from June 1993, through its 1995 reorganization as

time, accompanied by Brig. Gen. William B. Watson, Jr., Deputy Commander of the 81st.

In recognition of his service, Darden was presented the Legion of Merit. Darden's wife, Madelaine, was honored as well, receiving the Dr. Mary E. Walker Award for her volunteer service contributions to the quality of life for Reserve soldiers and their families. Both awards were presented by Plewes during the change of command.

For his next assignment, Darden assumed command of the 87th Division (Exercise), also headquartered in Birmingham.

Upon receiving the unit colors, Mayo opened his tenure as RSC commander with remarks praising Darden's contributions to the 81st and Army Reserve. He challenged the soldiers of the 81st to continue their efforts, stressing his priorities of readiness, soldiers and families.

Mayo entered the Army as a private in 1965, and in September 1966, was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. His initial assignment was as an executive officer for Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Training Brigade, at Fort Polk, La., prior to his deployment to the Republic of Vietnam to serve as a platoon leader in the 9th Infantry Division.

Upon his return from Vietnam and subsequent release from active duty in 1973, Mayo served in a variety of assignments, some of which include: Administrative Officer, 492nd Civil Affairs Company; Training Officer, 2nd Maneuver Training Command; and Headquarters Commandant, U.S. Army Central Command, Atlanta, Ga., and Saudi Arabia. Mayo served as Chief of Staff, 81st U.S. Army Reserve Command in Atlanta from August 1991 to May 1993. He was promoted to brigadier general on March 26, 1995.

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**...priorities of  
readiness, soldiers  
and families.**

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His military education includes the Infantry Officer Advance Course, Command and General Staff College, National Defense University, National Security Management Program, Army War College and the Senior Officer Refresher Course.

Mayo's civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Sciences and Business Administration from William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., a Masters of Public Administration from George State University in Atlanta, and he is a Senior Executive Fellows of Harvard University, Boston.

Mayo and his wife Barbara reside in McDonough, Ga.



USAR photo by Paul Adams

***Maj. Gen. James Darden and Brig. Gen. Michael Mayo wish each other well following the change-of-command ceremony.***

the 81st RSC, until May 1997, assumed command of the 81st in a February ceremony hosted by Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Commander, United States Army Reserve Command.

Maj. Gen. James W. Darden, 81st commander since May 1995, passed the unit colors in the traditional ceremony to Plewes, who in turn presented them to Mayo.

The change of command ceremony traditions are grounded in the unit's colors, which not only represent the heritage and history of the unit, but symbolize the unity and loyalty of its soldiers. The unit colors also serve to symbolize the commander's authority and responsibility.

The ceremony was held at the Birmingham-Jefferson County Civic Center, concurrent with the 81st Regional Support Command Spring Commander's Conference. The four-day event was attended by all 81st major subordinate and direct reporting commanders, their senior NCOs and key staff.

More than 300 soldiers, special guests and family members witnessed the ceremony held in one of the center's massive ballrooms.

As his final act as commander, Darden inspected the assembled troops for the last

# Reservists build house during county fair

By Maj. Rudolph Burwell  
Public Affairs Officer  
AR-PERSCOM

**M**artha Chapman is gesturing so excitedly to her interpreter that at times she has difficulty keeping up. Chapman's hands and body are a constant blur of frantic motion, punctuated occasionally by the sound of her voice to accentuate her point. For Chapman is deaf, and it is through the international language of sign that she expresses appreciation for the Army Reserve and the Macon, Ga., Area Habitat for Humanity Organization. Her appreciation is rooted in the fact that she and her husband Leo, also deaf, are about to become first-time homeowners, due in large part to both organizations.

Macon Area Habitat for Humanity is part of an international Christian housing ministry whose purpose is to eliminate poor living conditions in the world, and provide decent shelter for those not qualifying for conventional home loans.

Several Macon-area Army Reserve units, as well as many local civic and business groups, contributed their time and sweat to build the Chapmans' home, but the driving force behind the Army's participation was Maj. Ray Horoho, Commander of Macon's 352nd Combat Support Battalion.



USAR photo Maj. Rudolph Burwell

**Army Reservists work with Macon, Ga., civic and business groups to construct Martha Chapman's house.**

"I wanted to do something that makes us all (members of the 352nd) thankful for what we have," said Horoho. "The secondary benefit is that we get to meet the community and they get to know us," Horoho added.

What also made this project unique was that the house was built on the Macon fairgrounds during the county fair. In between the noise of hammering and sawing, the gentle sounds of a merry-go-round and the sweet smell of cotton candy filled the air.

"This has been one of the more unusual Habitat projects," said Suzanne F. Wood, Executive Director for the Macon Area Habitat for Humanity. "The fair was



USAR photo Maj. Rudolph Burwell

**Sgt. Cedric Geter, 421st Quartermaster Co., works on a doorframe in the new home.**

looking for new ways to bring more people through the gates, and we were looking for a way to publicize the building of Habitat homes," said Wood. "It was good to see their (the Army Reserve) presence, because people don't often have the opportunity to see the Army Reserve, and frankly we couldn't have completed this project without them," Wood added.

Capt. D.V. Childs, 352nd Combat Support Battalion, said, "This has been a great project for our unit to work on, and a great service to the community."

But the Chapmans contributed their fair share as well. In addition to a down payment and monthly mortgage payments required by Habitat for Humanity International, the Chapmans are also required to put in a certain amount of "sweat equity" in building the house. "I've done a little of everything," said Chapman through her sign interpreter Theresa Thomas. "I have worked on the sawhorses, cleared trash and nails from the building site, and handed out box lunches to the workers," Chapman added.

Working hard is nothing new for the Chapmans. Martha works as a custodian at the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon. Her husband worked as a cook at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., before having to leave on disability after a car accident.

The Chapmans are simply grateful to have the opportunity to own a new home, and were very grateful to the Army Reserve for their help. "The Army guys were great. They worked hard and really fast," said Martha Chapman.

Thomas, an administrative assistant at the Ocmulgee National Monument, initially referred Chapman to the Habitat organization. "I helped her fill out the application and gather all the necessary paperwork to complete the process," said Thomas.

In February, the Chapmans' new home was moved from the fairgrounds to the Fort Hill neighborhood in East Macon.

The Chapmans are now living the American dream of home ownership, and the Army Reserve can be proud that they were a part of making that dream a reality.



# Reservists can now shop til they drop

**R**eservists. Do you have your Commissary Privilege Card? If you don't have one, get one. It's your ticket to saving 20-25 percent on groceries, and it's an important part of your military benefits.

Congress voted last fall to double the amount of visits that Reservists, National Guard, and gray area retirees can make to the commissary: From 12 to 24. That's enough to do some serious shopping. But you still need that magic card to get in the door.

The expanded commissary benefit is also available to Reserve retirees who are not yet 60 years old, but will be eligible for retired pay when they hit that magic number. The privilege also applies to the dependents of Reserve and retired Reserve personnel.

"Service in the National Guard and Reserve is now more challenging and more difficult than ever before," said Charles L. Cragin, acting assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. "Doubling the commissary access for Reservists and their families helps to level the playing field and improve their quality of life."

According to Col. James Scott, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, "many Reservists feel it's a significant entitlement. The problem is lack of awareness - the Reservists don't always know about the benefit or take advantage of it."

John Gannon, a retired Sgt. Major who is a key volunteer with Reserve and family support groups, agrees 100 percent. During his travels, Gannon talks to thousands of Reservists and many of them don't understand the significant money they can save at the commissary. "How do you know you can't save money if you don't go?" he asks them. "It's a major benefit to Reservists," he said. "They might not see it now, but if they don't start using it now, one day they will wake up and their biggest benefit will be gone!"

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***It's your ticket to saving 20-25 percent on groceries...***

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"We encourage all Guard and Reserve personnel to use their shopping privilege," said Bill Ritz, a commissary management specialist who oversees the Guard/Reserve shopping program at The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). "They will enjoy shopping for groceries in modern stores, and get great value in the bargain."

For calendar year 1999, the services indicate they will issue two, 12-visit cards to authorized Reserve and Retired Reserve members. For calendar year 2000, the Commissary Privilege Card (CPC) will be revised to contain 24 blocks.

According to Mrs. Anita Barnes, Commissary Card Coordinator for the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), the first commissary privilege card was mailed to the major subordinate commands in December 1998, providing Reserve soldiers

with 12 commissary visits.

"Currently, we are in the process of distributing the second and final distribution of the 12-visit CPC for Calendar Year 1999," Barnes said.

Barnes pointed out that the CPC DD Form 2529 for Calendar Year 2000 will contain 24 blocks for recording the dates of visits to the commissary.

To shop the commissary, Reservists (or immediate family) need a valid ID card and a current CPC that entitles them to 24 shopping days. CPCs are usually obtained through the Reserve unit administrator. The card is stamped or initialed at each store visit. During active duty, they can visit the commissary as many times as they wish and do not have to get their card initialed.

Gray area Reserve retirees (under 60) usually get their cards by mail, but "judging from some of the phone calls I've gotten, it's not automatic," said Lt. Col. Terry Jones, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. "And often when they were processed out, no one told them about the benefit." According to Col. Scott, retirees who want to get "into the system" and obtain a CPC by mail, should contact their regional personnel support team.

## Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

American Forces Press Service

**I**t is bronze, 1 1/4 inches in diameter, and displays the image of an eagle standing on a sword loosened in its scabbard. It is the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Pentagon recently announced that it will be awarded to service members who took part in or provided direct support to operations Joint Endeavor or Joint Guard in the Balkans.

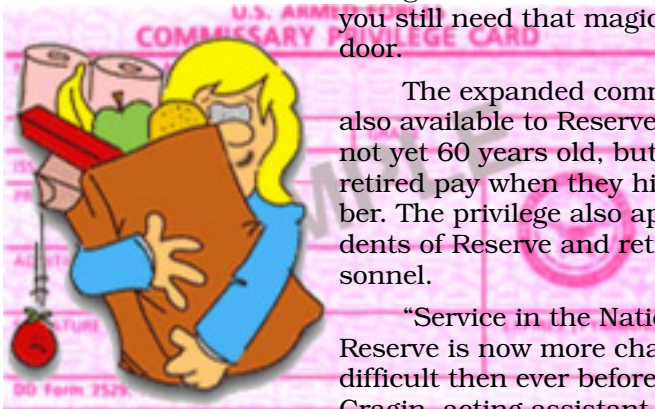
In a one-time exception to policy, Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has approved the award in addition to the Armed Forces Service Medal for qualified service in the Balkan operations.

For awards purposes, Operation Joint Endeavor began Nov. 20, 1995, and ended Dec. 19, 1996; Operation Joint Guard began Dec. 20, 1996, and ended June 20, 1998. Officials estimate 50,000 service members are affected.

The expeditionary medal is the higher of the two. Prior to today's announcement, the Joint Chiefs of Staff had designated 22 operations for which the expeditionary medal may be awarded.

To qualify for the expeditionary medal, a person must have been a member of a unit engaged in Joint Endeavor or Joint Guard for at least one day in the designated geographic area of eligibility or must have deployed to the area as an individual on official orders for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days.

Expeditionary and service medals for participation in the Balkan operations are each awarded only once.



# New rules for travel voucher



Effective January 1, 1999, all travel vouchers for duty performed within the continental United States must SEPARATELY list the LODGING TAXES paid as a reimbursable expense (in Block #18 of the travel voucher, DD Form 1351-2).

Prior to this change, the cost of lodging and taxes were combined and reported as one total dollar amount on the voucher. It appears many hotels/motels were establishing their government pre-tax lodging rates as the “maximum lodging Per Diem rate” for their locality. This left the traveler paying the lodging taxes “out of pocket.”

The new maximum lodging Per Diem rates established by the Department of Defense now reflect only the maximum lodging cost (not lodging cost plus taxes). These new lodging Per Diem rates have been DOWNWARDLY adjusted to reflect the separation of lodging costs and taxes.

When completing a travel voucher, list the cost of lodging in the “lodging cost” area of the travel voucher (Block #15e). Separately list the lodging taxes in the “reimbursable expenses” area of the travel voucher (Block #18).

If the traveler fails to separately list the lodging taxes, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) (the people who process most travel vouchers) will attempt to identify and separate the amount of the taxes from the lodging costs and process the travel voucher.

However, if the voucher-processing clerk cannot separate the lodging taxes from the lodging costs, the voucher WILL NOT be returned to the traveler; the ENTIRE amount claimed will be processed as lodging costs.

Since the lodging Per Diem rates have been DOWNWARDLY adjusted, the cost of the lodging and the taxes, combined, could easily exceed the lodging Per Diem rate, with the result being some “out of pocket” costs.

**Separately list the lodging taxes in the “reimbursable expenses” area ...**

Travelers may lose money if they fail to itemize their lodging taxes. Also note that if the traveler stays in lodging with a higher cost than the maximum lodging Per Diem for that locality, the traveler will not be reimbursed for the excess lodging cost and the tax on that excess cost.

Travel to locations outside the continental United States (i.e., Alaska, Hawaii, Europe, Asia, etc.) are not affected by this change. Travelers to these locations will continue to combine the lodging cost and taxes when completing their travel voucher.

## CSM continued -----

Highly trained and professional soldiers such as these are soldiers that we want to retain. Retaining our soldiers is an integral part of everything we do. Unit leaders must continue to train on the techniques of retention. Everyone affects retention.

As with retention, unit leaders must also put command emphasis on military schooling. Many of our best soldiers throughout the command have been conditionally promoted and need their required NCOES. Unit leaders must insure this required education is taken care of.

The 81st RSC has some of the greatest soldiers in the Army. They are well educated and highly motivated. They are committed. Therefore, the commands that are currently conducting their Soldier of the Year Boards face a great challenge. The competition will be tough, but the boards will be successful.

The keen competition was no less evident in the 81st RSC TPU/AGR Soldier and NCO of the Year competition for TY 99. We are extremely honored to have had America’s best soldiers represent this command. We owe Staff Sgt. Ronald Kelly, Staff Sgt. Keith Bethke, Spc. James Sheehan, and recently promoted Sgt. William Mitchell, a debt of gratitude for being the best in capturing their respective Soldier/NCO of the Year honors the past year.

The 81st RSC Soldier of the Year Board for TY 00 will be conducted in September 1999. We wish all the soldiers competing for this honor great success and know you are competing against the Army’s best.

## Chaplain continued -----

I have asked the other chaplains on my staff to come to Birmingham during this time to give us coverage. We plan to be in the office two to three days of the week.

I trust that each of my Unit Ministry Teams (UMTs) in the command are making plans to attend the Region IV UMT School that will be held in Orlando, Fla., Aug. 22-25. Some of you have not been to one training event in the five years that I have been your staff chaplain. You need to have this training. We will be dealing with the impact of Generation X. Dr. George Barna will be with us to share his research and wisdom. A lot of hard work has already gone into this great training opportunity and you need to make every effort to take advantage of this training. You will be receiving a Memorandum of Instruction this month with all the details.

All around the world our people are in harm’s way. I want you to join me in praying for our men and women as they stand in the gap for freedom. As you already know, praying is the power supply. Over these last five years the one thing that has carried me is knowing that you are praying for me. This job is much bigger than me, but thank God it is not bigger than the God I serve. I love the job that God has called me to be a part of here at the 81st RSC. Remember that you are the reason the UMT staff is here. Let us know when you hurt.

May God bless you always.  
Your Servant,  
Chaplain (COL) Ed McDaniel





# 314th gets digital update

By Elizabeth Eggleton  
Public Affairs Specialist  
81st RSC

Lights, computers, keyboards, action was the “battle cry” of soldiers from the 314th Public Affairs Detachment who recently participated in an intensive, hands-on training session in preparation for their Bosnia deployment in support of Operation Joint Forge.

Fourteen members of the Birmingham-based unit descended on the North

software). Some image manipulation in Photoshop and video frame capture were also included in the comprehensive training session.

The workshop featured software basics, digital layout production, videotaping, converting video clips and digital video editing exercises designed to introduce, update and polish the 314th soldiers’ software skills. By the completion of the training, each soldier had moved through several levels of competency in their respective areas.

“The soldiers were very eager and enthusiastic about working in the software. Our goal was for each photojournalist and broadcast journalist to advance at least three levels of competency by the end of the training. I feel that goal was achieved,” said Lt. Col. Ronnie McDonald, Public Affairs Officer and workshop instructor.

Staff Sgt. Scotty Johnson, staff journalist with the 81st RSC Public Affairs Office, attended the training, honing his video production skills. Johnson said, “This was an excellent training session and I think everyone learned a little more about their respective jobs.”

Staff Sgt. Melanie Rowton, 314th Public Affairs NCO who also attended the software training, said, “Because of the way the training was designed, being able to work at our own pace, we could focus on the things we knew we needed more practice on or weren’t so familiar with. I really needed practice in the broadcast side of the house and website related skills. The class allowed me to concentrate on my specific needs and weaknesses.”

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**“...being able to work at our own pace, we could focus on the things we knew we needed more practice on...”**

**– Staff Sgt. Melanie Rowton**

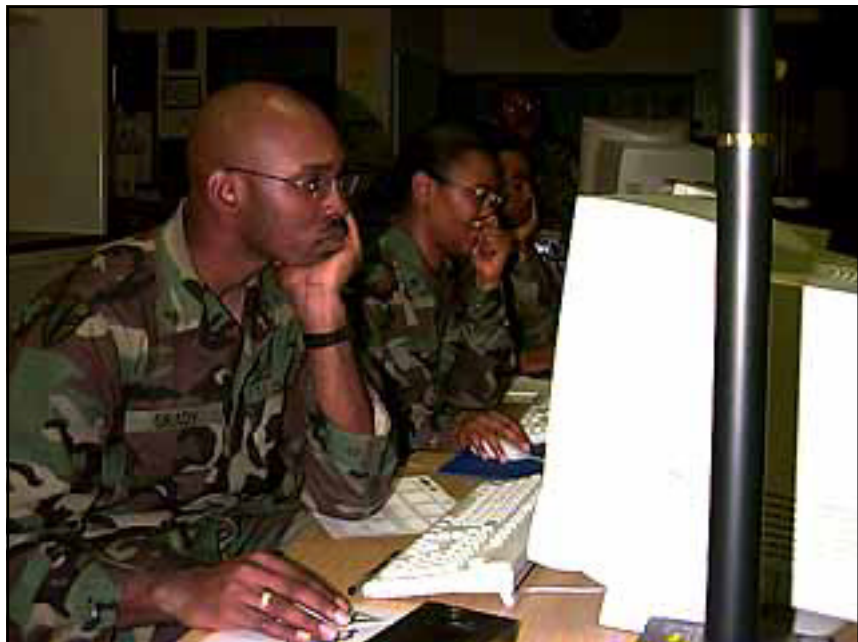
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Detachment 1 of the 314th deployed to Bosnia in February. Rowton was assigned to the “Talon” newsmagazine staff upon her arrival, where she works as NCOIC and Managing Editor. She and several other 314th soldiers write and edit stories, take photographs, and work on the design and layout of the weekly publication.

The “Talon” serves the soldiers assigned to Task Force Eagle and is produced by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Other members of the 314th are working in the Coalition Press Information Center, where they write news releases, conduct press conferences and serve as media escorts.

Additional workshops are scheduled for other public affairs units under the command of the 314th.



USAR photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Adkins

**Sgt. James Grady, Spc. Sherri Nabors and Staff Sgt. Scotty Johnson contemplate their next step in a digital video production program during software training.**

Alabama town of Killen, about 60 miles west of Huntsville, to update and sharpen their print and broadcast journalism computer software skills at the Allen Thornton Career Technical Center (ATCTC). The training was hosted by the Public Affairs



USAR photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Adkins

**Cpl Randolph Cox gazes intently while he and other photojournalists polish their skills in a desktop publishing program.**

Office of the 81st Regional Support Command.

The Reservists worked with one-on-one and self-paced instruction focusing on PageMaker (Adobe’s publishing software), as well as Avid Videoshop (video production

# Plea for help answered by soldiers of 345th CSH

Spc. Shawn Henson  
JTF New Hope  
350th MPAD

BASE CAMP – NEAR CHILANGUERA

Quiet tears of confusion ran down little Ana Cabrera's cheeks as she sat patiently on the examination table, while soldiers from the Joint Task Force Nueva Esperanza's (New Hope's) medical unit comforted and reassured her.

Early in the evening of April 14, Ana Cabrera's mother had flagged down a

are scheduled. These excursions feature primary and preventative medical and dental treatment provided by Salvadoran and U.S. Army Reserve medical personnel.

Salvadorans will generally need to see their own doctors unless it's a life threatening situation, according to Col. Yellespur Jayaram, commander of the Task Force medical facility.

According to Jayaram, the medical unit received authorization from the Task Force command staff to treat Ms. Cabrera's daughters for special humanitarian reasons.

The emergency call came into Maj. Garry Gillenwater, the officer in charge of the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) section. According to Gillenwater, such high fevers can be potentially dangerous, and thus warranted immediate medical attention.

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**Salvadorans will generally need to see their own doctors unless it's a life threatening situation...**

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Ana, 8, and her sister Rina, 10, had fevers of 104 and 102 degrees respectively. According to Staff Sgt. Craig Campbell, from the 345th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) Jacksonville, Fla., serving as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the EMT section, the children were given fever reducers and antibiotics as part of their treatment.

"Both children seemed alert, and we really wanted to get their fevers down," said Staff Sgt. Joy Coburn, also from the 345th CSH.

The experiences on the Task Force were rewarding from an Army Reserve perspective, according to Coburn. Many of the Army Reservists on the medical team were serving a 17-day rotation for their annual training.

"You can only train so much on a drill weekend. It's really nice to get some good hands-on experience down here," said Coburn.

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**"...It's really nice to get some good hands-on experience down here."**

—Staff Sgt. Joy Coburn  
345th CSH

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"You don't realize how blessed you are until you see the conditions here," said Campbell. "That's why I enjoy helping so much."



USAR Photo by Spc. Melissa Hale

**Spc. James C. Saunders takes Ana's temperature.**

solider outside the Task Force base camp, pleading for help for her two daughters, both stricken with fever. It didn't take long for the soldiers to respond.

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**...pleading for help for her two daughters, both stricken with fever.**

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Nueva Esperanza is a joint-nation disaster recovery effort between the governments of El Salvador and the United States. The recovery efforts, in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch, feature Salvadoran and U.S. Army Reserve engineer units working on reconstruction projects in the areas hardest hit. The engineer projects include building schools, clinics, a community center, low-water crossings, road improvements, and repairing a bridge.

During the project's initial phase, which will last until August 1999, medical excursions to remote areas of El Salvador



**El Salvador continued -----**

there,” said Pfc. Tim Harris from the 926th Engineer Group.

Some soldiers, especially those from Florida, can empathize with the people they will help. Capt. Paula Nobles is from the 345th Combat Support Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., and knows first-hand the kind of devastation faced by the people of El Salvador.

“After viewing the wake of the tornadoes in Kissimmee, Fla., in 1998, it makes you humble and also makes you appreciate the situation they’re facing,” she said.

With approximately 38 units under the 81st RSC, and only a few months to prepare, Operation New Horizons was a true test of the command’s ability to plan and execute under a very strict timetable. It was a test met and exceeded by everyone involved.

And, as with all deployments, soldiers must be processed for overseas movement. For Operation New Horizons, a Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) is conducted at

Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery the day before each departure. Conducted by the 3220th U.S. Army Garrison from West Palm Beach, Fla., the SRP ensures that all soldiers have their military and personal affairs in order before departing the U.S. Medical records are checked and anything needed such as shots or blood work is done on the spot.

Brig. Gen. William B. Watson, Jr., deputy commanding general of the 81st RSC, was present to see the first rotation off to El Salvador. “I believe the people of El Salvador will remember the Americans who went there to help them years from now,” he said, as he bid each soldier farewell as they boarded the plane.

When the work of Operation New Horizons is completed, the people of El Salvador will have gone a long way down the road to recovery, and the Army Reservists from the 81st RSC and Task Force New Hope will know they helped to make that road passable for many years to come.

SEE RELATED STORY ON PAGE 8

# Broadcast journalism offers valuable benefits

By Lt. Col. Ronnie McDonald  
Public Affairs Officer  
81st RSC

Public affairs is on the leading edge of the Army’s transition to an all digital environment. A broadcast journalist will, in the not too distant future, be shooting video “footage” on a digital video camera, downloading the images directly to a computer, selecting the scenes needed for a video story or video news release, putting those clips together with special effects transitions, adding additional sound, and rendering the production to a disk and/or video tape for distribution via satellite or mail. Digital editing is already a reality in the broadcast journalist field.

**...\$5,000 for 46R,  
46Q and 25R for  
6 year ...**

Soldiers in the broadcast journalist military occupational specialty receive valuable training, including taping techniques, interviewing skills, story composition, and editing, that may also be utilized in the civilian job market. The skills taught are the same skills needed in the television and video production industry.

Soldiers with the 46R (broadcast journalist) MOS work in broadcast public affairs detachments (BPADS), mobile public affairs detachments (MPADS), public affairs detachments (PADS), and press camp headquarters (PCH).

Lucrative bonus and education incentives are being offered in addition to the valuable training and creative job opportunities in not only 46R, but 46Q (photojournalist) and 25R (video equipment repair technician).

An enlistment bonus for non-prior service recruits is \$5,000 for 46R, 46Q and 25R for 6-year TPU (troop program unit) contract (in a high priority unit).

The prior service enlistment bonus for the same MOSs is \$5,000 for a 6-year TPU contract and \$2,500 for a 3-year contract.

A re-enlistment bonus of \$2,500 is paid for 6-year TPU contract and \$1,250 for 3, 4 or 5-year TPU. Payment schedule amounts vary according to the contract and status of individual.

All military personnel leaving the Active Component may be entitled to \$50 per month affiliation bonus for every month remaining on their initial obligation. Entitlement will begin when the soldier is duty MOS qualified for the position he/she is placed in.

Other incentives include a student loan repayment program and a Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) “kicker”.

For non-prior service recruits, as well as re-enlistment in one of the MOSs, a \$20,000 student loan repayment incentive (in HIGH PRIORITY unit) is available.

The 25R MOS carries a \$350 kicker per month for non-prior service recruits in addition to the basic MGIB entitlement. The 46R and 46Q qualify for a \$200 kicker. The MGIB kicker incentives are not available for ACASP, reenlistment and prior service soldiers.

If you are interested in any of the public affairs career opportunities and incentives listed here, contact the 314th PCH in Birmingham or the 81st RSC Public Affairs Office. You may also contact your local Army Reserve recruiter for all the details.



# Anthrax immunizations begin in FY 2000

By Maj. Doug Melton  
Public Affairs Staff Officer  
81st RSC

The anthrax immunization will begin in Fiscal Year 2000 for all Reserve Component soldiers in Florida, according to Lt. Col. Eddie Lumpkin, medical plans officer in the 81st Regional Support Command Surgeon's Office. Anthrax is currently considered the top biological warfare threat to the U.S. military.

The 18-month pilot program will include all Reserve and National Guard soldiers in the state. This follows the directive by the Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen that members of all services would receive the vaccine as a force protection measure.

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***Anthrax is currently considered the top biological warfare threat to the U.S. military.***

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Planning is being implemented for the remainder of the Reserve force with a goal of full immunization of the force by 2003. Immunization of troops deployed to high-threat areas has already begun.

It takes 18 months for a soldier to complete all the immunizations. The program includes six shots: three given two weeks apart, followed by three additional shots given at six, 12 and 18 months. Annual booster shots are required to maintain ongoing immunity.

All soldiers will be required to take the vaccine unless medically deferred. Anthrax will be treated like any other vaccine that is required to prepare a soldier for deployment.

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***All soldiers will be required to take the vaccine unless medically deferred.***

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Anthrax is a disease normally associated with plant-eating animals (sheep, goats, and cattle). Human infection with anthrax usually results from direct contact with these animals. However, when anthrax is used as a biological weapon, people

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***Contrary to rumors, the vaccine contains no living or dead anthrax organisms and will not cause the disease.***

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become infected by breathing anthrax that is released into the air. Under expected battlefield conditions, experts believe enough anthrax to kill a person can be inhaled in a single, deep breath.

The anthrax vaccine is a sterile product made from cultures of a strain of the anthrax organism that does not cause disease. Contrary to rumors, the vaccine contains no living or dead anthrax organisms and will not cause the disease. Also contrary to opinion, it is not associated with Gulf War Syndrome.

In fact, the anthrax vaccine is not new. It has been safely and routinely administered in the United States to veterinarians, laboratory workers, and livestock handlers for more than 25 years.

"I am 100 percent sure it's safe," said Lumpkin. "It is my personal opinion, it is as safe or more safe than any of the other immunizations I take, and I have no hesitancy about taking it," he said. Lumpkin added that all immunizations are inherently safe and noted that Brig. Gen. Michael Mayo, commander of the 81st RSC, plans to be one of the first RSC soldiers to be immunized with the anthrax vaccine.

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***"I am 100 percent sure it's safe."***

***- Lt. Col. Eddie Lumpkin***

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"Our mission is the healthcare of the soldiers assigned to the 81st," said Lt. Col. Lumpkin. "This is how we protect the force and the vaccine is necessary to accomplish this."

If you would like more information on the anthrax vaccine, contact your commanding officer or a supporting military medical facility. You can also access information at: <http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/Anthrax>.

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